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# THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

## *A Brief Summary of Economic Conditions*

ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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### CROPS GROWING WELL—PRICES VERY LOW

So far, nature has done her part and the growing crops present a generally excellent picture now at midseason. There have been regional variations in weather, as always happens—too much rain lately in the eastern cotton belt and in the southern wheat belt, too dry in the Northeastern States, etc. On the whole, however, this is a favorable growing season.

Corn has made a splendid start. It is in promising condition throughout the principal corn States. Oats show rather short straw in the East but are better elsewhere. The fruit indications are for a short crop of peaches and for fewer apples than last year in the East but the apple prospect is favorable in the Northwest.

Haying is beginning to get under way. The grass crop is not large in the East. Old meadows are thin and new seeding short, a result of dry weather. Over the Mississippi Valley and the West, however, the hay crop is reasonably good and in the Northwest better than last year.

Wheat harvest now holds the center of the stage, cutting of winter wheat having advanced slowly up into the North. From Kansas southward June rains rather seriously interrupted the harvest, made it difficult to use combines in many places, and for a time delayed the usual movement of grain to market. Winter wheat is considered to be only about a 400,000,000 bushel crop, as compared with 787,000,000 bushels produced last season. The carry-over of old wheat in this country, however, is of record proportions, being now estimated at around 360,000,000 bushels, compared with 319,000,000 bushels carry-over a year ago.

Spring wheat has made a rapid growth, is fairly well headed, and at this stage seems to promise a good crop. There is some grasshopper menace in the northern Red River Valley and various reports of rust. Much can happen to affect spring wheat between now and threshing time, but at this date it appears that the Northwest will turn out at least an average crop, which would be more than twice what it produced last year.

The movement of new farm products forward into trade is still rather sluggish, so far as the grains and vegetables are concerned, but is moderately heavy in livestock products. Market receipts of hogs and of butter during the month of May slightly exceeded that month last year. The export movement of pork continues very light, of wheat and tobacco rather light, but of cotton moderately large.

Unfortunately, the nation-wide picture of good crops has its darker side in the continued low level of prices. Many of the important farm products have declined even further during the past month. The average price index of farm products was thought to be seriously low in June two years ago when it stood at 123 (pre-war being considered as 100). A year ago it had dropped to 80. Now it is about 52.

### THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SITUATION

Thus far, the 1932 supplies of apples, peaches, pears, grapes, cantaloupes, watermelons, tomatoes, cabbage, and new potatoes have been much lighter than shipments of last season to this time. Part of the deficiency has been due to decreased acreage or lighter yields, while part has been the result of a late shipping season. Citrus fruits also have been less plentiful than last spring. About the only important products in heavier supply than a year ago were onions and old-crop potatoes, as well as apples from storage.

During the last full week of June, total shipments of fruits and vegetables decreased temporarily to 17,000 carloads of 37 products, which was 12,000 less than moved during the same period last year.

Markets for most products were weak, and prices generally were on the decline. Rainy weather had held up the digging and loading of new potatoes in the Middle West, so that a temporary advance occurred about June 25 in f. o. b. prices of new potatoes in all shipping areas.

Marketing of certain lines of fruits and vegetables was meeting considerable difficulty. With the purchasing power of consumers at a low level, an active demand for some products seemed to be lacking. Trading was generally dull and somewhat draggy. With a very few exceptions, prices of most fruits and vegetables recently have been lower than the level of July 1, 1931.

### FRUITS IN RATHER LIGHT SUPPLY

*Apples.*—New-crop apples were beginning to move actively from Illinois, Georgia, and California, with other shipping States soon to follow. Condition of the United States apple crop on June 1 averaged 59 per cent of normal, compared with 76 per cent last year and 68 per cent the 10-year average for 1919–1928. A light set of fruit is reported in many important States, but Washington and Oregon report better conditions than a year ago.

Cold-storage holdings on June 1 were reported as 63,000 barrels, 1,362,000 boxes, and 467,000 bushel baskets. The total was equivalent to 673,000 barrels or 2,018,000 boxes, which total was 17 per cent more than supplies of last spring and 32 per cent above the 5-year average figure. Shipments from storage had decreased to about 30 cars daily, most of which were coming from the State of Washington.

*Cantaloupes* and similar melons in nine second-early States may total 6,219,000 crates, or 9 per cent more than last year. Arizona has just about as many as last season, but marked increases are noted for California, Arkansas, and the Carolinas. Texas outside the lower valley has a much lighter crop than in 1931. Plantings in seven intermediate States are estimated at 21,720 acres, compared with 19,860 last season, most of the increase being in New Mexico.



Acreage in eight late-shipping States shows only a 5 per cent increase and may total 19,520 acres, with Colorado and Michigan showing the largest gains over 1931.

The Imperial Valley cantaloupe season was waning and movement was becoming more active in Arizona and some of the southeastern sections. Imperial Valley was still shipping about 100 cars daily by June 25, but output was expected to decrease rapidly. Movement of Honey Dews, Honey Balls, and similar melons was at a daily average of 75 cars in the Imperial Valley. Total output was short about 50 per cent of last year's corresponding record. Cash-track prices of standard crates of 45 cantaloupes had dropped to 90 cents to \$1 at shipping points, with Honey Dews bringing only 40 to 50 cents and Honey Balls 90 cents to \$1 per standard crate. City prices were rather low.

*Citrus fruits.*—The California orange crop showed a June 1 condition 82 per cent of normal, which was slightly better than last year. In Florida oranges registered only 66 per cent of normal condition, or much lower than last season at this time. The navel crop in California was quite promising. Car-lot movement was still about one-fifth lighter than last spring, averaging only 3 cars per day from Florida and 150 cars daily from California during late June. Market prices were favorable.

Condition of the grapefruit crop in Florida on June 1 was only 60 per cent of normal, or 5 points lower than a year ago and 19 points below the 10-year average for 1919-1928. The Texas crop appeared to be very light, with a June condition only 32 per cent of normal, or 41 points below the condition of last year's large crop. California and Arizona grapefruit registered around 80 per cent of normal. Shipments during late June were averaging only 10 cars daily from California, with light arrivals from Puerto Rico. Markets were firm to higher.

*Peaches.*—Total production of peaches in the United States was forecast in June at 48,927,000 bushels, which is but little more than half a full crop. This would be 63 per cent of last year's peach production and 86 per cent of the average for the 5-year period, 1924-1928. June 1 condition of the crop was only 52 per cent of normal, compared with 79 per cent a year ago. The late spring freeze was severely felt in nearly all sections except the North Atlantic and the western group of States. California may have 28,000,000 bushels of peaches, or 14 per cent more than last season, but many of these are used locally for manufacturing.

Shipments from Georgia had reached only 15 or 20 cars per day toward the end of June, or only one-sixth as many as a year ago. California was sending a few carloads to market, and light movement was reported from Illinois, Arkansas, and the Carolinas. The half-bushel baskets of Early Rose peaches were returning \$1.10 to \$1.50 on a cash-track basis in central Georgia. Terminal prices were rather favorable.

*Pears.*—Production of pears, according to early June reports, may amount to around 21,487,000 bushels, or 6 per cent less than last year and 16 per cent less than the very large crop of 1930. California looked for a larger crop than that of 1931. Conditions in the Northwest were spotted. New York crop looked good. Michigan may have a good early production but a poor showing of the late varieties

of pears. Car-lot shipments were delayed this season, first cars not moving from California until about June 15 and recent shipments averaging only a few cars daily.

*Watermelons.*—Seven second-early States expect a total of 37,568,-000 melons, or a decrease of about 5 per cent from last year's crop. All States show reductions this year. Georgia expects 19,380,000 and Texas 8,475,000 melons.

Car-lot movement of watermelons from Florida reached its peak during late June; Georgia had become very active; the crop was getting under way in South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, and Arizona, with Texas making liberal shipments. New life was shown in the Imperial Valley deal, when shipments there increased again to 100 cars daily about June 25. Total forwardings of watermelons had reached 500 cars per day, making this product rank second only to potatoes. Shipments, however, were only half as heavy as a year ago. Cash-track sales of 24 to 30 pound Tom Watsons had declined in southern Georgia to \$75 to \$150 per carload, with Dixie Belles returning \$50 to \$100. Shippers in southern Texas were getting only \$50 to \$55 per car, and small-sized Klondikes in Imperial Valley of California ranged \$75 to \$125 per carload. City values were declining, as supplies about reached their annual peak.

#### POTATOES AND OTHER VEGETABLES

*Potatoes.*—Condition of the early potato crop had declined, and the revised forecast of commercial production in six second-early States in June was 13,720,000 bushels, compared with 18,650,000 last season. The greatest decrease in crop prospects was for Virginia, which now expects about 7,800,000 bushels, or 3,000,000 less than in 1931. Five intermediate States looked for a commercial crop of around 11,000,000 bushels, or 9 per cent more than last year, according to June reports.

Shipments of new potatoes had increased to a daily average of 700 cars, but were considerably below last year's figure. Virginia took first place during late June, with an output of 300 or more cars per day. North Carolina was still moving 150 carloads daily, but was soon expected to be finished. Oklahoma and Arkansas neared the end of their season, and movement was beginning in Missouri and Kansas. A few shipments were already coming from Maryland and Central States, with California also fairly active.

F. o. b. prices had declined to a low level and then advanced slightly the last week of June. Barrels of best Cobblers were returning \$1.85 to \$2 in North Carolina, with sales at Eastern Shore of Virginia shipping points around \$2.10. U. S. No. 1 Cobblers returned about \$1 per 100-pound sack, cash-track in Orrick district of Missouri, while combination-grade stock in the Kaw Valley of Kansas ranged 75 to 80 cents, cash track to growers. Bliss Triumphs in Oklahoma and Arkansas had strengthened to 90 cents to \$1 per 100-pound sack, on an f. o. b. usual terms basis. Old potatoes were still moving at the rate of 70 cars per day, mostly from Maine, but markets for storage stock were very weak.

*Lettuce.*—Production of lettuce in five intermediate States may be reduced this season about 9 per cent to a total of 820,000 crates. Washington expects 540,000 and New Jersey 225,000 crates. Shipments recently increased and prices were again declining. About 100 cars of lettuce were moving daily, chiefly from California, Washing-



ton, and Colorado, with light movement from New Jersey and New York. Shipments were beginning in Idaho and Utah. Cash-track sales of crates of mostly 5-dozen heads were being made in central California and in Washington at \$1.75 to \$2. Dealers in city markets were getting \$3 to \$5 per crate of western stock, with the 2-dozen crates of eastern Big Boston lettuce ranging 50 cents to \$1.25 in jobbing centers.

*Onions.*—Seven intermediate onion States expect a total of 2,908,000 bushels this season, compared with 2,327,000 last year. Biggest gains are indicated for Iowa, northern Texas, California, and Walla Walla district of Washington. Total acreage of all onions in the United States is now estimated at 91,980 acres, or about one-fifth more than in 1931. The late-shipping States have 57,420 acres, an increase of 15 per cent over last year.

Total shipments of onions had dropped during late June to about 75 cars per day, mainly from Texas and California. The season's movement from Texas had already exceeded 8,000 cars, compared with 5,700 during all of the 1931 season. The 50-pound sacks of Texas Yellow Bermudas were jobbing lower in terminals at 50 cents to \$1.15, but Crystal Wax stock was stronger at 75 cents to \$1.25. Yellow Bermudas from California sold at 75 cents to \$1 per sack, and Crystal Wax at 90 cents to \$1.10.

*Tomatoes.*—Production of tomatoes in five second-early States was forecast at 4,161,000 bushels, compared with 3,857,000 last year. The Mississippi crop was one-fourth greater than in 1931, but Texas had slightly fewer tomatoes than last season. Acreage in intermediate States is increased 7 per cent, and late-shipping States have plantings one-fourth greater than last year. Production in 10 intermediate States may amount to 6,319,000 bushels, as against 4,790,000 last season. The Missouri crop is doubled, and gains appear prominently in Tennessee, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, Arkansas, and California, also in Illinois and North Carolina.

The Mississippi tomato season was about finished, but Texas, Tennessee, and Arkansas were still active, with South Carolina and other States also shipping a few cars. A daily average of 250 cars in late June was not much over half as many as moved during the same period last year. Markets were weak. The lug boxes of eastern Texas stock were returning only 60 to 65 cents at shipping points, while sales in western Tennessee were being made at 70 cents per lug.

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#### PRICE DECLINES FOR SOME OF THE PRODUCTS OF AGRICULTURE, MINES, AND FACTORIES

As a rule the prices of raw materials, agricultural and nonagricultural, have fallen much further in the depression than have the prices of manufactured products. The extremes are illustrated in the case of rubber, the wholesale price for which in March, 1932, was only 14 per cent of the price in March, 1929, contrasted with the increase in the price of cigarettes to 114 per cent of the March, 1929, price.

As a rule prices of raw materials for manufacture have fallen further than the prices for foodstuffs which require but little processing in preparation for consumption. This is illustrated by the fact that the greatest price declines in agricultural raw materials have been

in cotton and wool. Increased production has been a factor in depressing the prices of these products, but another factor of great importance has been the depression in industry which has curtailed the demand for these products.

While the manufacturer curtails his production and is indifferent about buying, no one wishes to hold stocks of raw materials and consequently the new production is taken only at greatly reduced prices. Even the ultimate consumer is deferring purchases, patching, repatching, and replacing with cheaper goods when possible. Consequently until the bottom of a depression is reached, all the forces of conservatism and uncertainty are reflected back upon the producer and prices to the producer are driven downward more rapidly and further than prices in general.

PRICES OF SPECIFIED COMMODITIES FOR MARCH, 1929, 1930, 1931, AND 1932, AND AS PERCENTAGE OF 1929

Item	Unit	March price				Percentage of 1929		
		1929	1930	1931	1932	1930	1931	1932
Products of agriculture: <sup>1</sup>								
Rubber, plantation ribbed	Smoked sheets	0.247	0.154	0.078	0.034	62	32	14
Cotton	Pound	.188	.138	.096	.062	73	51	33
Wool	do.	.355	.237	.159	.125	67	45	35
Corn, No. 3 yellow, Chicago	Bushel	.94	.80	.60	.33	85	64	35
Silk, China, steam filature	Third category	4.974	4.371	2.598	1.768	88	52	36
Eggs	Dozen	.280	.213	.170	.104	76	61	37
Lambs	100 pounds	13.12	9.63	6.84	5.05	73	52	38
Hogs	do.	10.00	9.57	6.92	3.90	96	69	39
Coffee, Rio, New York	Pound	.180	.103	.056	.073	57	31	41
Tobacco, leaf, warehouse sales	do.	.202	.180	.126	.084	89	62	42
Wheat	Bushel	1.047	.919	.583	.442	88	56	42
Cattle, beef	100 pounds	9.16	8.77	6.03	4.25	96	66	46
Butter, 92 score, New York	Pound	.48	.37	.29	.23	77	60	48
Products of mines: <sup>2</sup>								
Copper, ingot, electrolytic, refinery.	Pound	.211	.178	.099	.058	84	47	27
Lead, pig, desilverized, New York.	do.	.074	.057	.045	.032	77	61	43
Zinc, slab, New York	do.	.068	.053	.043	.032	78	63	47
Pig iron, Bessemer, Pitts- burgh.	Gross ton	20.135	20.760	18.760	17.390	103	93	86
Manufactured products: <sup>3</sup>								
Sheeting, bleached, mill, pe- quot.	Yard	.513	.467	.417	.315	91	81	61
Shirts, men's, work <sup>4</sup>	Dozen	9.406	9.006	8.266	6.402	96	88	68
Milk, condensed, New York.	Case of 48 cans	6.175	6.125	5.650	4.750	99	91	77
Suits, men's 3-piece 13-oz. blue serge, Chicago.	Each	18.50	18.50	16.12	14.50	100	87	78
Wire fence, barbed, galvan- ized, mill.	100 pounds	3.350	3.000	2.600	2.650	90	78	79
House furniture		<sup>3</sup> 94.3	<sup>3</sup> 94.6	<sup>3</sup> 91.9	<sup>3</sup> 79.1	100	97	84
Cream separator	Each	61.040	58.230	53.230	55.100	95	95	90
Corn planters	Each	57.710	57.710	57.710	57.710	100	100	100
Cigarettes	1,000	5.321	5.645	5.645	6.042	106	106	114

<sup>1</sup> Prices of tobacco, coffee, rubber, silk, and sugar are wholesale prices from the Bureau of Labor Statistics; other prices under this group, from Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates.

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, wholesale prices.

<sup>3</sup> Index numbers (1926=100). 1932 revised index used.

<sup>4</sup> Medium weight, blue chambray, delivered.



The prices of foodstuffs have also fallen rapidly and far, even though somewhat less than the prices of the raw materials for manufacture. Both the production and consumption of foodstuffs continue. As pay rolls shrink, consumers may shift from one product to another, substituting cheaper for dearer products, but perishable products must be consumed. Hence prices are reduced so that consumers can buy what is produced.

The production of the mines can be controlled. It may be difficult, however, to adjust production in advance of curtailing consumption. This is particularly true for commodities produced in many parts of the world with keen international competition. The price of cooper, for example, has fallen further than the price of most agricultural products. There has been keen competition in the production of copper in face of a very rapid curtailment in the demand for copper. Similarly prices of lead and zinc have been forced to very low levels.

Factory production is adjusted to demand more easily than farm or mine production. The past few years the prices of some factory products have declined partly as a result of the development of new processes in manufacture, lowering costs and more intensive competition. But prices of many factory products are still about as high as they were several years ago. Both the adjustment in production output to demand and stability of prices may be illustrated by reference to farm machinery.

FARM MACHINERY SALES, WHOLESALE VALUE PER UNIT AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, 1929-1932

Item	Number sold by manufacturers <sup>1</sup>			Wholesale value per unit			Prices paid by farmers			
	1929	1930	1931	1929	1930	1931	1929	1930	1931	March, 1932
	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Dol- lars	Dol- lars	Dol- lars	Dol- lars	Dol- lars	Dol- lars	Dollars
Walking plow, 2 horsepower.....	197	154	71	13	13	12	23	22	22	21
Plow, 2 bottom tractor.....	54	52	23	65	68	67	112	112	112	103
Disk harrow, horse.....	79	63	24	43	44	39	65	66	65	61
Corn planter, 2-row.....	54	50	30	56	57	55	79	82	81	80
Grain drill, horse.....	47	30	11	129	122	103	148	146	145	142
Manure spreader.....	58	43	16	117	116	115	164	166	163	154
Cultivator, 1-row riding.....	118	93	45	37	36	36	59	58	56	-----
Combine.....	30	23	88	1,386	<sup>2</sup> 1,306	1,518	-----	-----	1,400	-----
Grain-binder.....	<sup>3</sup> 65	41	22	164	167	157	233	232	226	-----
Mower.....	128	106	49	55	55	54	84	83	80	-----
Grain thresher.....	12	110	5	929	828	840	1,256	1,240	1,221	-----
Feed grinder.....	50	37	31	59	<sup>4</sup> 71	89	49	49	47	-----
Tractor.....	188	157	81	712	701	672	-----	-----	-----	-----
John D., 15-30.....	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	1,144	1,129	1,112	-----
I. H. C., 10-20.....	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	895	895	874	863
McD., 10-20.....	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	869	856	845
Wagon.....	42	23	10	92	85	69	135	132	126	116
Cream separator.....	174	107	72	45	45	39	94	92	92	86
Gas engine.....	122	82	37	50	48	48	102	102	101	96

<sup>1</sup> Includes exports.

<sup>2</sup> Changes in wholesale value due to shifts in sizes.

<sup>3</sup> Manufactured, not equal to domestic sales.

<sup>4</sup> Changes in wholesale value per unit caused by shift to hammer mill which is higher in price.

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Sales by manufacturers from the Census of Manufactures; wholesale price per unit computed from the value of sales divided by the number sold. Prices paid by farmers from the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Farmers were receiving a very low price for an average crop of corn, but the price of a corn planter was the same as three years ago. The price of butter was 48 per cent, but the cream separator price was still 90 per cent of the price three years ago.

Manufacturers are in a position to keep the production fairly closely in line with orders. Therefore, production may be cut and not prices. As the production is curtailed the cost per unit of the factory product may rise and this may be considered a reason for maintaining or even advancing prices. These points may be illustrated by referring to sales and prices of farm machinery. The number of mowers sold dropped from 128,000 in 1929 to 49,000 in 1931. The average wholesale value per mower as reported by the farm machinery industry dropped from \$55 to \$54 and the prices farmers pay as reported by local dealers dropped from \$84 to \$81. The sales of the two bottom tractor plows were reduced from 54,000 to 23,000 and the average price remained about the same. An exception to this tendency may be noted in the case of wagons, the demand for which is declining on account of competition from the truck and the automobile; sales dropped from 42,000 to 10,000 and the prices were reduced from \$135 to \$116. The factory adjustments to be made in prices are usually made slowly.

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#### TRENDS IN GROSS FARM INCOME AND EXPENDITURES 1909-1931

Gross farm income from farm production in the United States for 1931 was only slightly greater than the average income during the five pre-war years 1910-1914. Income from crops was about 19 per cent lower, while from livestock and livestock products it was about 27 per cent higher. In 1909, income from crops exceeded income from livestock, but in 1931 crop income was about a fourth lower than livestock income.

These facts are indicated by tentative estimates of gross income for the years 1909-1923, recently made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to supplement the published estimates for 1924-1931. Estimates of certain farm expenditures for the same period have also been made.

The income estimates are given in Table 1; the estimates of expenditures are contained in Figure 1, but are shown only as percentages of their averages for the five years 1910-1914.<sup>1</sup>

The income from agricultural production in 1931, about \$6,900,000,000, was only slightly greater than the income in 1909, when it amounted to \$6,200,000,000. By 1914 it had reached \$7,000,000,000. The war and postwar rise in prices lifted farm income to \$16,900,000,000 in 1919. This soon was reduced by nearly half by the price depression of 1920-21, leaving a farm income for that year of \$8,900,000,000. Farm income then improved gradually to \$12,000,000,000 in 1925, and from that level it was reduced in 1930 to \$9,300,000,000 and in 1931 to \$6,900,000,000.

<sup>1</sup> For data and explanations, see mimeographed report on Tentative Estimates of Gross Income from Farm Production, Current Value of Agricultural Capital and Selected Expenditures, 1909-1931, by this bureau's committee on agricultural income.

See also, Table 458, p. 893 in 1932 Yearbook of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and mimeographed report on Facts Relating to the Agricultural Situation, May, 1932, by L. H. Bean.



**Table 1.—GROSS INCOME FROM FARM PRODUCTION, UNITED STATES, 1909–1931<sup>1</sup>**

Year <sup>2</sup>	Crops	Livestock and livestock products	Crops and livestock combined	Gross income, percentage of 1910–1914 average		
				Crops	Livestock	Crops and livestock
	<i>Million dollars</i>	<i>Million dollars</i>	<i>Million dollars</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
1909-----	3,314	2,925	6,238	91.6	93.0	92.3
1910-----	3,517	3,126	6,643	97.2	99.5	98.3
1911-----	3,536	2,836	6,372	97.8	90.2	94.3
1912-----	3,688	3,096	6,784	101.9	98.5	100.3
1913-----	3,647	3,328	6,975	100.8	105.9	103.2
1914-----	3,700	3,328	7,028	102.3	105.9	104.0
1915-----	3,985	3,410	7,395	110.2	108.5	109.4
1916-----	4,968	3,947	8,914	137.3	125.6	131.9
1917-----	7,431	5,401	12,832	205.4	171.8	189.8
1918-----	8,119	6,982	15,101	224.5	222.1	223.4
1919-----	9,431	7,503	16,935	260.7	238.7	250.5
1920-----	6,862	6,704	13,566	189.7	213.3	200.7
1921-----	4,488	4,440	8,927	124.1	141.3	132.1
1922-----	5,350	4,594	9,944	147.9	146.2	147.1
1923-----	5,969	5,072	11,041	165.0	161.4	163.3
1924-----	6,170	5,167	11,337	170.6	164.4	167.7
1925-----	6,147	5,820	11,968	169.9	185.2	177.0
1926-----	5,468	6,012	11,480	151.2	191.3	169.3
1927-----	5,817	5,799	11,616	160.8	184.5	171.8
1928-----	5,675	6,066	11,741	156.9	193.0	173.7
1929-----	5,609	6,302	11,911	155.1	200.5	176.2
1930-----	3,971	5,376	9,347	109.8	171.0	138.3
1931-----	2,931	3,989	6,920	81.0	126.9	102.4

<sup>1</sup> Estimates for 1909–1923 comparable with data in Table 3, p. 398, Crops and Markets, September, 1931.

<sup>2</sup> Crop year for crops, calendar year for livestock and livestock products.

Before the World War, crop income slightly exceeded livestock income. For 1920 and 1921 incomes from the two sources were practically of equal magnitude, but during the last few years gross income from livestock and livestock products has exceeded crop income by a fairly wide margin. The latter has tended downward since 1924 largely because of progressively lower prices of wheat and cotton, the two chief export products. Livestock income tended upward to 1929. In 1931 total gross income was only 2 per cent larger than the pre-war average and was lower than the income for any year since 1912. Crop income in 1931 was 81 per cent of the pre-war average and livestock income was 127 per cent.

Of the two component elements in income, namely physical volume and prices, the element of price has been by far the most variable. The great war-time rise and the two postwar declines in farm income (1920–21 and 1930–31) were largely due to general price movements.



Taking the postwar period alone, 1919-1931, price movements associated with the industrial boom and depression of 1919-1921 were the chief causes of changes in income. From 1922 to 1925, the improvement in income was brought about by an improvement in general demand conditions here and abroad, which permitted prices to advance in the face of expanding production. From 1925 to 1929, with demand conditions fairly stable, farm income also remained fairly stable with changes in volume being offset by opposite movements in prices. The sharp decline in farm income after 1929 was again due largely to a major world-wide business depression accompanied by a general price decline, a curtailment of consumer incomes, a decline in industrial consumption and exports, and a piling up of stocks of certain farm products.

### GROSS FARM INCOME AND SELECTED EXPENDITURES, 1909-1931

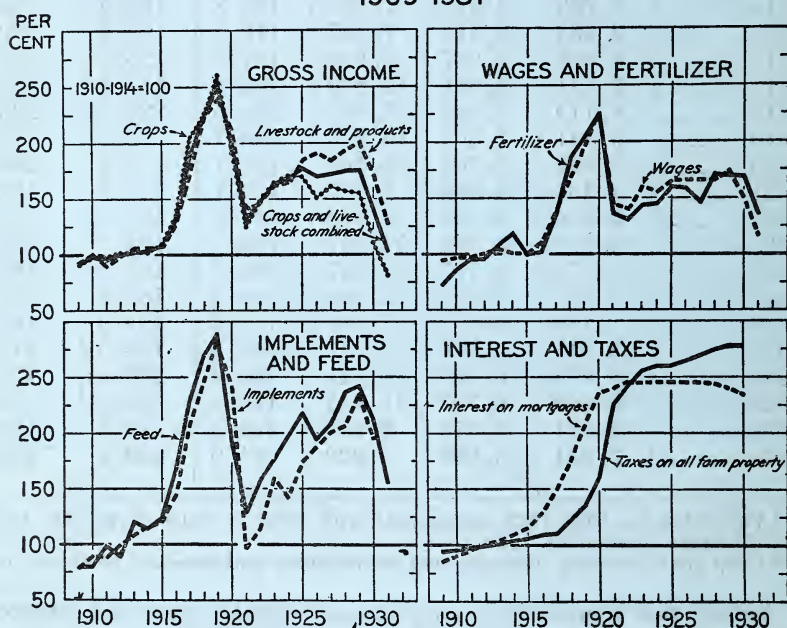


FIGURE 1.—Certain farm expenditures as for wages, fertilizer, feed, and implements, have fluctuated more or less as a result of changes in farm income. Although farm income in 1931 was back to pre-war levels, farm taxes and interest on farm mortgages remained about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times as high as before the World War

Of the selected farm expenditures, those for farm wages, feed, and taxes were the largest items in 1909 and in 1930. During that 20-year interval the selected expense items showed different rates of increase. Thus, the wage bill in 1918 was about twice as high as in 1909. The feed, fertilizer, and farm machinery bills were more than three times as high. Interest on mortgages was nearly two and a half times as large and taxes had risen considerably less.

The postwar reduction in farm income was accompanied by great reductions in the feed, fertilizer, and machinery items and a smaller reduction in the wage bill, which bill was partly sustained by the relatively higher city wage levels. But taxes and interest obligations continued to mount in spite of the reduced farm earnings. By

1929 each of the expense items (except interest) had increased over the 1921 figures. The wage bill was then nearly twice as high as in 1909, feed three times as high, fertilizer more than twice as high, machinery about three times as high, taxes two and a half, and interest two and a quarter times as high. In addition to these changes there has been a great increase in total cash outlay to meet operating costs, because of the adoption of the automobile, truck, and tractor. Operating costs for these items were comparatively insignificant before the World War; during recent years they have risen to about third place in the list of important farm expenditures.

Before the war farmers spent about 2 per cent of their gross income for fertilizer, 4 per cent for farm implements, 6 per cent for feed, 7.5

### SELECTED FARM EXPENDITURES AS PERCENTAGES OF GROSS INCOME, 1909-1931

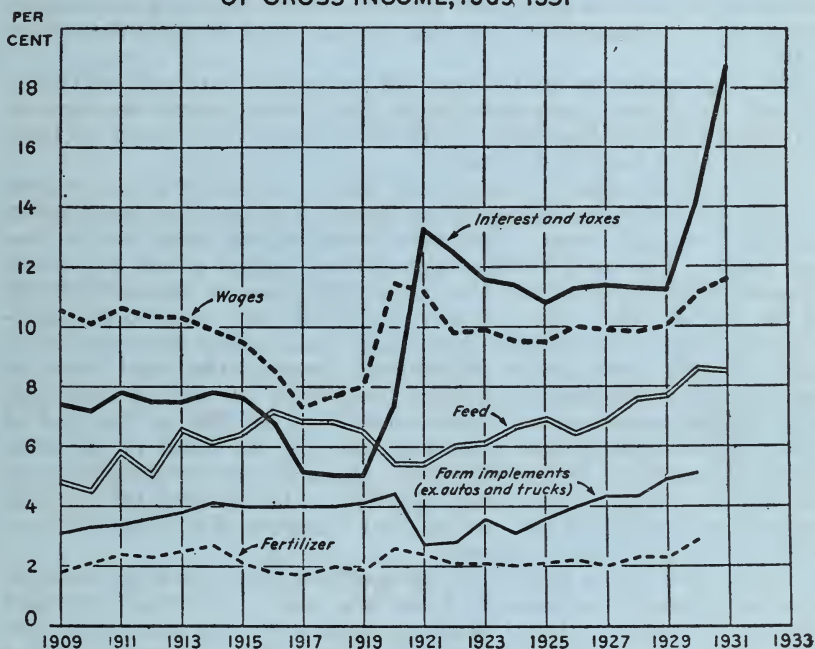


FIGURE 2.—Certain farm expenditures can not readily be adjusted when income is suddenly reduced. This is particularly true of farm taxes and mortgage interest which took 13 per cent of reduced income in 1921 and nearly 19 per cent in 1931.

per cent for mortgage interest and taxes, and 10 per cent for farm wages. (See fig. 2.)

Since the 1920-21 depression farmers have continued to spend about 2 per cent for fertilizer. But their expenditures for farm implements amount to about 5 per cent and for feed to 8 per cent of their income. Payments for hired wages amounted to about 10 per cent of gross income from 1922 to 1929 and about 11.5 per cent in 1931.

The expenditures that in periods of falling prices become unusually burdensome are of course those that remain relatively fixed, such as interest and taxes. In 1921, because of a shrinkage in income and inopportune rise in farm debts and taxes, the combined interest and tax charges rose sharply to 13 per cent of gross income. In 1931,



when these two charges remained practically unchanged, they came to absorb about 19 per cent of gross income.

Feed expenditures did not keep pace with the mounting gross incomes during 1918-1920, but have since risen to 8.5 per cent of gross income, compared with 5.4 in 1921, and 7 per cent in 1917-18. The tendency to increase the use of commercial feeds, which was checked by the decline in farm incomes in 1921 and 1922, may have been checked again temporarily by the sharp decline in income during 1931.

The tendency of farm wages to rise proportionally less than do farm receipts during periods of rising prices and to decline less in periods of falling prices, is shown by the fact that farm wages were only about 8 per cent of the total gross income in 1917 and 1918, compared with a pre-war proportion of over 10 per cent. During the years of falling incomes 1920 and 1921 and again during 1930 and 1931 farm wages amounted to about 11 per cent of gross income compared with somewhat less than 10 per cent in the intervening years.

Although estimates for 1931 are not yet available except for two of the selected items, it appears that in the current depression, farmers are again reducing drastically on all items that do not represent fixed charges such as taxes and interest.

During this period of rising and falling agricultural prices and income, current value of capital employed in agricultural production has also risen and fallen. That total value is now back close to pre-war levels. The total value of agricultural capital which amounted to about \$41,400,000,000 at the end of 1909, rose to \$48,000,000,000 by the end of 1914. By the end of 1919 it had risen to \$79,100,000,000. The persistent decline in farm land values since that time together with lower prices of livestock brought the total value of agricultural capital down to \$56,800,000,000 by the end of 1926, and after a slight improvement, down to \$52,700,000,000 by the end of 1930. The decline in land values during 1931, of about 15 per cent, the greatest annual decline since 1921, and a 40 per cent decline in the value of livestock on farms has probably reduced the total value of agricultural capital by the end of 1931 to about \$45,000,000,000 or only slightly above pre-war levels.

During this entire period the value of land and buildings has constituted a uniform percentage of the total value. In 1909, 1919, and 1930 the value of land and buildings remained at 84 per cent of the total value of agricultural capital. There has, however, been a relative decline in livestock and an increase in farm implements. Between 1909 and 1930 livestock declined from 12 per cent to 9 per cent while farm implements rose from 3 per cent to 6 per cent of the total value.

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#### EGG AND POULTRY MARKET SITUATION

The decline in egg prices which began in early May and continued throughout the entire month was checked during the first week in June. Up until then values had sagged in sympathy with an indifferent storage demand, cautious buying by retailers, particularly many of the larger chains, and a general feeling of nervousness and uncertainty throughout the wholesale trade. Receipts at the principal



markets during this period, although less than those of the corresponding period of last year, were slightly more than ample to satisfy all existing requirements.

Such a situation was soon reflected in lower prices at country points, the farm price of eggs on May 15 averaging 10.3 cents per dozen, which was the lowest farm price paid for eggs on that date since 1909. This low price discouraged heavy farm marketings and undoubtedly led to a more liberal rural consumption. Also, with the crop and harvesting seasons under way, it led to some neglect of many farm flocks in the general farming areas. Production began to drop more rapidly than the usual seasonal rate and, with terminal receipts showing a similar decline, the markets began to develop increasing firmness.

Most of the demand now appears to be for good quality eggs, whereas a month ago the situation was just reversed. With the supplies of fine quality, heat-free eggs from now on are expected to show a greater seasonal decrease than the general run of receipts, any marked improvement will probably center around the better grades.

No particular important developments have occurred in the storage situation since the last review. Total stocks of shell eggs on June 1 amounted to 5,379,000 cases compared with 7,887,000 cases on June 1 last year and a 5-year average of 8,180,000 cases. The increase in stocks for May amounted to 2,397,000 cases, which was about 12 per cent lighter than the increase in May last year. Stocks of frozen eggs on June 1 amounted to 95,097,000 cases compared with 106,607,000 pounds a year earlier and a 5-year average of 84,923,000 pounds.

The reserve situation as a whole is considered fairly satisfactory, although it is tempered to a certain extent by the belief that the consumption demand this fall and winter will not be quite as good as it was last fall and winter. Also, indications are that while farmers have sold off a considerable number of old hens (farm flocks on June 1 being the smallest for that date since records became available in 1925) they will be replaced to a very large extent by pullets of this year's hatch. In view of this possibility and the probable lighter demand for consumption, dealers quite generally prefer to see a heavy current consumption rather than a large accumulation of eggs in storage.

Poultry markets in June were weak and unsettled, particularly on fowl, quotations for which were featured by declines of 1 to 2 cents on most sizes. Receipts of fowl during the earlier part of June were larger than the market could absorb without disturbing values, and in an effort to prevent accumulations of any size dealers stood willing to make generous concessions, especially on stock weighing  $4\frac{1}{2}$  pounds and less. Such concessions stimulated considerable buying, and with receipts toward the close of the month dropping behind those of a year ago, trading became steadier. Many farmers, discouraged by the continued low egg prices had again started to sell of their hens rather freely, but the drop in quotations on fowl at the principal terminal markets followed by lower paying prices at country points checked this movement.

Stocks of frozen broilers have been pretty well cleaned up, with dealers working for a full clearance on remaining stock by early July when the into-storage movement of this year's crop is likely to begin. Trading in fryers has likewise been pushed aggressively and stocks are being reduced gradually to a satisfactory basis.

Total stocks of all poultry in storage on June 1 amounted to 44,712,000 pounds, which were larger than the 35,348,000 pounds in storage on June 1 last year, but less than the 48,711,000 pounds for the 5-year average. The movement out of storage in May was slightly more than that of May a year ago and since June 1 aggressive efforts to further reduce stocks of both broilers and turkeys have kept reductions above the level of early June last year. Although normally total stocks of all poultry in storage should continue to decline for the next two or three months, the supplies of fresh broilers will soon be larger than the market can absorb for immediate use and stock will start moving into the freezers. In view of the loss sustained on some of the stock stored last year and the general uncertainty over the size of this year's crop of broilers, a very conservative attitude on the part of dealers is expected at the beginning of the season.

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### THE DAIRY MARKETS

Dairy markets have so far failed to show any signs of the strength which might have been expected to develop with the advancing of the flush season. Butter markets have been nervous and unsettled during recent weeks, and wholesale prices have dropped to new low levels, fine 92-score butter at New York reaching 16 cents in June. The June average for this grade will be close to 1½ cents below May, and some 6 cents below the June average last year.

Even at the extremely low prices which have prevailed, butter production has been fairly heavy, May being estimated at about the same as last year. In April there was a drop under 1931 of 5 per cent, but in May there was, on the whole, considerable improvement in conditions, although this was not true of all the important butter sections. In Iowa and Wisconsin, for example, there were rather large decreases under 1931, but Minnesota on the other hand showed a substantial increase. This report for May, along with weekly reports in June, point to more or less irregularity in production during recent weeks, and suggest that June may fall below last year. In Minnesota, increases in production over corresponding periods of last year have been dropping each succeeding week, and the reports covering the centralizer areas have shown increasing decreases under a year ago each week since the middle of May. There was a heavy drop in cheese production during May, amounting to about 5,500,000 pounds, or over 12 per cent under that of May, 1931. This drop was general in all of the principal cheese-producing areas.

The peak of dairy production has apparently been passed for the season, and while declines are expected from now on, market dealers are of the opinion that there will be no sharp reductions, for weather conditions generally have been favorable for this time of the year. Parts of Wisconsin are said to be needing rain, but except for scattered localities in other States, pastures are reported in excellent condition. With feed ample, the principal drawbacks will be hot weather and flies. Farmers are expected to continue milking despite discouraging prices, for while milk and cream are low, so are other farm products.

As just mentioned, butter prices have reached new low levels. With a June average at New York of around 17 cents, it is necessary



to go back to 1898 to find a year when the June average was down to such a low point, 16 cents being the month's average that year. Cheese prices dropped slightly early in the month, with Wisconsin country prices down to 8½ cents for Twins. During June of last year, both butter and cheese prices tended upward, following such a trend until late summer, but no such tendency is yet in evidence this year. Retail milk prices have dropped in a few additional places, but on the other hand, a few advances have occurred. Some of the latter may in reality represent adjustments, rather than any strengthening of local markets, so that on the whole the fluid milk situation is little changed from May, this applying to dealers' buying prices as well. Condensery buying prices dropped again this month, with an average for the entire country of but 81 cents per hundredweight for 3.5 per cent milk. In May this price was 86 cents, and in June, 1931, it was \$1.04. Canned milk prices continue downward also, with some chain stores retailing two cans of evaporated for 9 cents this month.

As was to be expected, the storing of butter has been of considerable support to markets the past month; had it not been for this, there is no telling where prices might have gone. In the four principal wholesale markets, the movement into storage recently has been at a fairly rapid rate, although this does not represent any speculative trade, operators of this type still holding off, apparently expecting even lower prices.

Total stocks of creamery butter in cold storage June 1 amounted to 29,293,000 pounds, compared with 35,155,000 pounds last year, and a June 1 5-year average of 31,052,000 pounds. Stocks in the principal storing centers of the country are still about 6,000,000 pounds below last year, but during the past four weeks these stocks have increased slightly more than they did last June. Most of this storing was on the part of large users or distributors with direct consumer outlets. Stocks of American cheese on June 1, of 40,486,000 pounds were over 6,000,000 pounds under last year, and 5,000,000 below average for that date. Canned milk stocks on June 1 were more than 30 per cent below a year earlier. Storage operations generally are difficult to finance this year, on account of conservatism on the part of banks.

The apparent falling off in the consumption of dairy products continues to be of importance in keeping dairy markets on an unsettled basis. As indicated in the table which follows, the trade output or apparent consumption of all manufactured products was lower in May than last year, ranging from small percentage decreases in the case of butter and evaporated milk, to very substantial decreases for cheese and condensed milk.

For the five months May to June, inclusive, the reductions under the corresponding period of 1931 were large for all products, amounting on a milk equivalent basis to almost a billion pounds of milk. This does not take into account such changes which have occurred in the consumption of fluid milk as such, which is said to also represent a sizable decrease under 1931. Receipts of milk at New York City, for example, which are in some measure an indication of consumption, were some 8 per cent less the first five months of this year than last. The fact that consumption has dropped in greater proportion than production is one of the unfavorable factors which keeps dairy markets



on an unstable basis. For manufactured dairy products alone, the decrease in consumption is over 4 per cent, while the decrease in production is but 1.3 per cent.

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### SUMMARY OF DAIRY STATISTICS

[Million pounds, 000,000 omitted]

#### PRODUCTION

Product	May			January to May, inclusive		
	1932	1931	Per cent change	1932	1931	Per cent change
Creamery butter.....	183	182	+0.21	683	674	+1.34
Farm butter.....	60	61	-1.8	204	208	-1.8
Total butter.....	243	243	-0.3	888	882	+0.6
Cheese.....	50	57	-13.0	174	199	-12.9
Condensed milk.....	22	30	-27.8	96	127	-24.1
Evaporated milk.....	181	179	+0.9	634	666	-4.8
Total milk equivalent....	6,108	6,215	-1.7	22,204	22,507	-1.3

#### APPARENT CONSUMPTION

[Including production, changes in stocks, and net imports or exports]

Butter.....	224	225	-0.6	885	910	-2.8
Cheese.....	53	60	-12.4	216	247	-12.6
Condensed milk.....	13	18	-25.1	85	116	-26.7
Evaporated milk.....	130	131	-0.7	582	613	-5.0
Total milk equivalent....	5,591	5,715	-2.2	22,413	23,406	-4.1

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*Division of Dairy and Poultry Products.*

AGRICULTURAL LOANS OUTSTANDING <sup>1</sup>

Year and month	Farm mortgage loans by—				Federal intermediate credit bank loans	
	Federal land banks	Joint-stock land banks	Loans of 40 life insurance companies	Member banks	To cooperative associations	To financing agencies
	<i>Millions of dollars</i>	<i>Millions of dollars</i>	<i>Millions of dollars</i>	<i>Millions of dollars</i>	<i>Thousands of dollars</i>	<i>Thousands of dollars</i>
1926-----	1, 078	632	1, 588	489	52, 704	39, 730
1927-----	1, 156	667	1, 618	478	31, 991	43, 924
1928-----	1, 194	605	1, 606	444	36, 174	45, 103
1929-----	1, 197	585	1, 591	388	26, 073	50, 018
1930-----	1, 188	553	1, 554	387	64, 377	65, 633
1931						
May-----	1, 184	536	1, 541	-----	51, 781	79, 335
June-----	1, 182	532	1, 537	389	57, 535	79, 206
July-----	1, 179	551	1, 535	-----	57, 536	79, 509
August-----	1, 178	548	1, 533	-----	51, 479	81, 027
September-----	1, 174	545	1, 530	376	49, 270	81, 121
October-----	1, 171	540	1, 527	-----	47, 027	78, 470
November-----	1, 167	535	1, 523	-----	49, 141	74, 467
December-----	1, 163	530	1, 512	362	45, 255	74, 613
1932						
January-----	1, 158	525	1, 512	-----	43, 070	74, 612
February-----	1, 154	520	1, 506	-----	40, 286	73, 934
March-----	1, 150	513	1, 498	-----	38, 147	74, 346
April-----	1, 146	507	1, 487	-----	35, 867	77, 605
May-----	1, 143	490	-----	-----	36, 851	78, 983

## SELECTED INTEREST AND DISCOUNT RATES, AND BOND YIELDS

Year and month	12 Federal land banks' rates to borrowers	Federal intermediate credit banks' loan and discount rates		Yield on Federal land bank bonds	Rates on commercial paper (4-6 months) (average)	Federal reserve bank discount rates (New York)
		<i>Loans</i>	<i>Discounts</i>			
1917-----	5. 05	-----	-----	4. 33	4. 74	4 -4½
1920-----	5. 50	-----	-----	5. 14	7. 46	4¾-7
1923-----	5. 50	5. 50	5. 50	4. 39	5. 01	4 -4½
1929-----	5. 32	5. 56	5. 61	4. 78	5. 84	4½-6
1930-----	5. 63	4. 53	4. 54	4. 70	3. 58	2½-4½
1931-----	5. 63	4. 08	4. 08	5. 34	2. 63	1½-3½
1932						
January-----	5. 63	5. 34	5. 34	5. 82	3. 88	3½
February-----	5. 63	5. 43	5. 43	5. 77	3. 88	3 -3½
March-----	5. 63	5. 44	5. 44	5. 63	3. 62	3
April-----	5. 63	5. 27	5. 27	5. 62	3. 50	3
May-----	5. 63	4. 79	4. 79	5. 75	3. 12	3
June-----	5. 63	4. 10	4. 10	5. 95	2. 75	2½-3

<sup>1</sup> See April, 1932, issue for sources of data.

## PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS

Actual prices received by producers at local farm markets as reported to the division of crop and livestock estimates of this bureau. Average of reports covering the United States, weighted according to relative importance of district and State.

Product	5-year average, August, 1909- July, 1914	June average, 1910- 1914	June, 1931	May, 1932	June, 1932
Cotton, per pound....cents..	12. 4	12. 7	7. 7	5. 2	4. 6
Corn, per bushel....do....	64. 2	68. 4	53. 8	30. 2	29. 4
Wheat, per bushel....do....	88. 4	89. 0	51. 9	42. 4	37. 3
Hay, per ton.....dollars..	11. 87	12. 16	9. 97	8. 48	7. 60
Potatoes, per bushel.cents..	69. 7	71. 8	75. 3	47. 0	44. 4
Oats, per bushel....do....	39. 9	41. 8	26. 1	21. 8	19. 8
Beef cattle, per 100 pounds -----dollars..	5. 20	5. 44	5. 26	3. 91	3. 81
Hogs, per 100 pounds -----do....	7. 24	7. 16	5. 70	2. 96	2. 82
Eggs, per dozen....cents..	21. 5	16. 7	14. 1	10. 3	10. 6
Butter, per pound....do....	25. 5	23. 2	24. 4	20. 2	18. 6
Butterfat, per pound.do....	-----	-----	20. 5	16. 4	14. 6
Wool, per pound....do....	17. 8	17. 5	13. 0	9. 0	7. 2
Veal calves, per 100 pounds -----dollars..	6. 75	6. 77	6. 81	4. 67	4. 63
Lambs, per 100 pounds -----do....	5. 90	6. 30	6. 42	4. 78	4. 49
Horses, each.....do....	142. 00	145. 00	67. 00	62. 00	61. 00

## COLD-STORAGE SITUATION

[June 1 holdings, shows nearest millions, i. e., 000,000 omitted]

Commodity	5-year average	Year ago	Month ago	June 1, 1932
Apples, total.....barrels..	<sup>1</sup> 512	<sup>1</sup> 577	<sup>1</sup> 1, 719	<sup>1</sup> 673
Frozen and preserved fruits.pounds..	45	66	72	69
40 per cent cream....40-quart cans..	-----	<sup>1</sup> 210	<sup>1</sup> 88	<sup>1</sup> 168
20 per cent cream.....do....	-----	<sup>1</sup> 20	-----	<sup>1</sup> 1
Creamery butter.....pounds..	31	35	10	29
American cheese.....do....	46	47	39	40
Frozen eggs.....do....	85	107	82	95
Case eggs.....cases..	<sup>1</sup> 8, 180	<sup>1</sup> 7, 887	<sup>1</sup> 2, 982	<sup>1</sup> 5, 379
Total poultry.....pounds..	49	35	57	45
Total beef.....do....	53	49	41	35
Total pork.....do....	816	828	799	789
Lard.....do....	140	103	111	129
Lamb and mutton, frozen....do....	2	2	1	51
Total meats.....do....	946	959	901	884

<sup>1</sup> Three ciphers omitted.



## GENERAL TREND OF PRICES AND WAGES

[1910-1914=100]

Year and month	Whole-sale prices of all commodities <sup>1</sup>	Industrial wages <sup>2</sup>	Prices paid by farmers for commodities used in—			Farm wages	Taxes <sup>3</sup>
			Living	Production	Living-production		
1910.....	103	-----	98	98	98	97	-----
1911.....	95	-----	100	103	101	97	-----
1912.....	101	-----	101	98	100	101	-----
1913.....	102	-----	100	102	100	104	-----
1914.....	99	-----	102	99	101	101	100
1915.....	102	101	107	103	106	102	102
1916.....	125	114	125	121	123	112	104
1917.....	172	129	148	152	150	140	106
1918.....	192	160	180	176	178	176	118
1919.....	202	185	214	192	205	206	130
1920.....	225	222	227	175	206	239	155
1921.....	142	203	165	142	156	150	217
1922.....	141	197	160	140	152	146	232
1923.....	147	214	161	142	153	166	246
1924.....	143	218	162	143	154	166	249
1925.....	151	223	165	149	159	168	250
1926.....	146	229	164	144	156	171	253
1927.....	139	231	161	144	154	170	258
1928.....	141	232	162	146	156	169	263
1929.....	139	236	160	146	155	170	267
1930.....	126	226	151	140	146	152	266
1931.....	107	207	129	122	126	116	-----
May—1921.....	140	204	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1922.....	140	194	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1923.....	149	218	-----	-----	155	-----	-----
1924.....	140	217	-----	-----	154	-----	-----
1925.....	148	221	-----	-----	160	-----	-----
1926.....	147	226	-----	-----	156	-----	-----
1927.....	138	230	-----	-----	154	-----	-----
1928.....	142	230	-----	-----	156	-----	-----
1929.....	138	236	-----	-----	155	-----	-----
1930.....	130	228	-----	-----	150	-----	-----
1931.....	107	212	-----	-----	131	-----	-----
1932.....	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
January.....	98	191	-----	-----	118	98	-----
February.....	97	189	-----	-----	116	-----	-----
March.....	96	189	115	112	114	-----	-----
April.....	96	183	-----	-----	<sup>4</sup> 113	94	-----
May.....	94	177	-----	-----	<sup>4</sup> 112	-----	-----

<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics. Index obtained by dividing the new series, 1926=100, by its pre-war average, 1910-1914, 68.5.

<sup>2</sup> Average weekly earnings, New York State factories. June, 1914=100.

<sup>3</sup> Index of estimate of total taxes paid on all farm property, 1914=100.

<sup>4</sup> Preliminary.

## GENERAL TREND OF PRICES AND PURCHASING POWER

[On 5-year base, August, 1909-July, 1914=100]

Year and month	Index numbers of farm prices							Prices paid by farmers for commodities bought <sup>1</sup>	Ratio of prices received to prices paid
	Grains	Fruits and vegetables	Cotton and cotton-seed	Meat animals	Dairy products	Poultry products	All groups		
1910-----	104	91	113	103	100	104	103	98	106
1911-----	96	106	101	87	97	91	95	101	93
1912-----	106	110	87	95	103	101	99	100	99
1913-----	92	92	97	108	100	101	100	100	99
1914-----	103	100	85	112	100	105	102	101	101
1915-----	120	83	78	104	98	103	100	106	95
1916-----	126	123	119	120	102	116	117	123	95
1917-----	217	202	187	173	125	157	176	150	118
1918-----	226	162	245	202	152	185	200	178	112
1919-----	231	189	247	206	173	206	209	205	102
1920-----	231	249	248	173	188	222	205	206	99
1921-----	112	148	101	108	148	161	116	156	75
1922-----	105	152	156	113	134	139	124	152	81
1923-----	114	136	216	106	148	145	135	153	88
1924-----	129	124	211	109	134	147	134	154	87
1925-----	156	160	177	139	137	161	147	159	92
1926-----	129	189	122	146	136	156	136	156	87
1927-----	128	155	128	139	138	141	131	154	85
1928-----	130	146	152	150	140	150	139	156	90
1929-----	121	136	145	156	140	159	138	155	89
1930-----	100	158	102	134	123	126	117	146	80
1931-----	63	98	63	93	94	96	80	126	63
June—									
1921---	117	140	78	105	132	114	110	-----	-----
1922---	111	197	160	121	128	113	128	-----	-----
1923---	119	161	207	103	142	114	133	155	86
1924---	116	146	219	105	126	115	130	153	85
1925---	164	184	183	139	130	135	148	160	92
1926---	130	216	132	154	128	138	139	157	89
1927---	140	201	119	129	132	102	130	155	84
1928---	152	168	162	150	134	127	145	157	92
1929---	111	120	146	163	135	140	135	155	87
1930---	106	193	115	141	118	103	123	149	82
1931---	67	114	65	91	86	81	80	129	62
1932									
January---	52	70	45	68	85	87	63	118	53
February---	51	68	47	65	79	70	60	116	52
March-----	51	73	50	69	76	61	61	114	54
April-----	50	78	46	66	74	60	59	<sup>2</sup> 113	<sup>2</sup> 53
May-----	49	80	42	59	69	60	56	<sup>2</sup> 112	<sup>2</sup> 50
June-----	44	82	37	57	62	59	52	<sup>2</sup> 111	<sup>2</sup> 47

<sup>1</sup>These index numbers are based on retail prices paid by farmers for commodities used in living and production, reported quarterly for March, June, September, and December. The indexes for other months are straight interpolations between the successive quarterly indexes.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary.

## THE TREND OF MOVEMENT TO MARKET

Figures show wheat, corn, hogs, cattle, and sheep receipts at primary markets; butter receipts at five markets, compiled by this bureau.

Year and month	Receipts					
	Wheat	Corn	Hogs	Cattle	Sheep	Butter
Total—	<i>1,000 bushels</i>	<i>1,000 bushels</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>
1920---	332, 091	209, 079	42, 121	22, 197	23, 538	402, 755
1921---	416, 179	338, 216	41, 101	19, 787	24, 168	468, 150
1922---	413, 106	378, 598	44, 068	23, 218	22, 364	526, 714
1923---	386, 430	271, 858	55, 330	23, 211	22, 025	545, 380
1924---	482, 007	278, 719	55, 414	23, 695	22, 201	587, 477
1925---	346, 381	223, 604	43, 929	24, 067	22, 100	574, 489
1926---	362, 876	234, 873	39, 772	23, 872	23, 868	572, 935
1927---	455, 991	241, 245	41, 411	22, 763	23, 935	581, 592
1928---	495, 450	335, 149	46, 527	21, 477	25, 597	577, 929
1929---	437, 681	264, 934	43, 715	20, 387	26, 834	602, 665
1930---	402, 398	247, 483	40, 774	19, 166	29, 808	584, 196
1931---	420, 758	172, 514	39, 537	19, 617	33, 022	609, 611
May—						
1920---	19, 112	10, 863	4, 210	1, 778	1, 488	33, 225
1921---	23, 569	19, 196	3, 328	1, 542	1, 916	49, 291
1922---	28, 204	21, 965	3, 737	1, 878	1, 692	56, 636
1923---	17, 457	10, 809	4, 524	1, 900	1, 794	54, 249
1924---	16, 039	15, 988	4, 321	1, 890	1, 344	56, 937
1925---	17, 896	11, 935	3, 283	1, 737	1, 689	56, 838
1926---	15, 260	11, 972	3, 037	1, 894	1, 717	54, 464
1927---	17, 760	12, 908	3, 613	1, 956	2, 013	63, 710
1928---	24, 718	23, 289	3, 723	1, 799	1, 952	54, 427
1929---	17, 996	11, 249	3, 375	1, 653	2, 169	63, 259
1930---	16, 369	16, 194	3, 293	1, 517	2, 334	63, 752
1931---	30, 902	10, 741	2, 938	1, 551	2, 810	61, 986
1931						
October----	30, 035	14, 555	3, 462	2, 137	3, 956	43, 857
November--	24, 575	11, 788	3, 752	1, 866	2, 811	44, 925
December--	13, 073	11, 195	4, 210	1, 453	2, 182	47, 194
1932						
January----	14, 778	9, 816	4, 218	1, 376	2, 363	48, 895
February----	22, 993	14, 105	3, 659	1, 282	2, 035	49, 071
March-----	13, 089	10, 587	2, 939	1, 377	2, 114	50, 140
April-----	12, 433	10, 138	2, 960	1, 376	2, 411	49, 915
May-----	14, 456	9, 198	3, 050	1, 397	2, 429	65, 107



## THE TREND OF EXPORT MOVEMENT

Compiled from the Department of Commerce reports by the foreign agricultural service division of this bureau.

Year and month	Wheat, <sup>1</sup> including flour	Tobacco (leaf)	Bacon, <sup>2</sup> hams, and shoulders	Lard	Total <sup>3</sup> meats	Cot- ton, <sup>4</sup> running bales
	<i>1,000 bushels</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 bales</i>
Total—						
1920---	311, 601	467, 662	821, 922	612, 250	1, 043, 500	6, 111
1921---	359, 021	515, 353	647, 680	868, 942	786, 280	6, 385
1922---	235, 307	430, 908	631, 452	766, 950	733, 832	6, 015
1923---	175, 190	474, 500	828, 890	1, 035, 382	958, 472	5, 224
1924---	241, 454	546, 555	637, 980	944, 095	729, 832	6, 653
1925---	138, 784	468, 471	467, 459	688, 829	547, 361	8, 362
1926---	193, 971	478, 773	351, 591	698, 961	428, 613	8, 916
1927---	228, 576	506, 252	237, 720	681, 303	302, 795	9, 199
1928---	151, 976	575, 408	248, 278	759, 722	315, 586	8, 546
1929---	154, 348	555, 347	275, 118	829, 328	360, 868	7, 418
1930---	149, 154	560, 958	216, 953	642, 486	297, 836	6, 474
1931---	125, 686	503, 531	123, 246	568, 708	177, 009	6, 849
May—						
1920---	26, 555	33, 303	68, 308	55, 544	88, 253	359
1921---	31, 877	40, 220	53, 973	48, 604	63, 070	473
1922---	14, 485	38, 844	44, 058	50, 817	50, 196	457
1923---	14, 593	28, 421	64, 608	93, 199	72, 606	158
1924---	7, 401	39, 661	45, 584	62, 648	51, 380	307
1925---	13, 114	22, 415	33, 475	71, 135	38, 977	314
1926---	12, 558	27, 431	30, 104	58, 154	35, 197	412
1927---	14, 123	40, 376	21, 634	64, 418	27, 035	612
1928---	8, 793	38, 728	21, 711	55, 540	28, 148	578
1929---	16, 128	32, 178	27, 117	64, 192	33, 926	313
1930---	10, 208	27, 039	23, 525	62, 562	31, 696	209
1931---	10, 203	47, 864	12, 476	39, 622	16, 577	336
1931						
October----	15, 563	48, 739	8, 762	43, 547	13, 681	1, 014
November--	13, 550	55, 938	8, 962	35, 205	13, 447	1, 071
December--	12, 100	54, 413	6, 206	65, 598	10, 302	1, 181
1932						
January----	8, 137	24, 344	5, 791	59, 854	9, 922	920
February----	7, 995	29, 629	5, 328	66, 674	9, 345	968
March-----	8, 554	27, 332	4, 907	43, 200	8, 820	927
April-----	11, 885	30, 745	6, 845	36, 014	10, 289	545
May-----	8, 829	27, 607	9, 148	41, 084	13, 988	501

<sup>1</sup> Wheat flour is converted on a basis of 4.7 bushels of grain equal 1 barrel of flour.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Cumberland and Wiltshire sides.

<sup>3</sup> Includes fresh, canned, and pickled beef; bacon, hams, and shoulders; fresh, canned, and pickled pork; fresh mutton and lamb.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes linters.

## GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS RELATED TO AGRICULTURE

Production, consumption, and movements	May, 1931	April, 1932	May, 1932	Month's trend
<i>Production</i>				
Pigiron, daily (thousand tons).	64	28	25	Decrease.
Bituminous coal (million tons).	28	20	18	Do.
Steel ingots (thousand long tons).	<sup>1</sup> 2, 506	1, 240	1, 107	Do.
<i>Consumption</i>				
Cotton by mills (thousand bales).	<sup>1</sup> 465	367	332	Do.
Unfilled orders, Steel Corporation (thousand tons).	3, 620	2, 327	2, 177	Do.
Building contracts in 37 Northeastern States (million dollars).	306	122	146	Increase.
Hogs slaughtered (thousands).	1, 841	2, 024	2, 188	Do.
Cattle slaughtered (thousands).	980	879	895	Decrease.
Sheep slaughtered (thousands).	1, 464	1, 269	1, 360	Increase.
<i>Movements</i>				
Bank debits (outside New York City) (billion dollars).	19	14	12	Decrease.
Carloadings (thousands) -----	<sup>1</sup> 2, 959	2, 773	2, 088	Do.
Mail-order sales (million dollars).	50	40	39	Do.
Employees, New York State factories (thousands).	374	307	285	Do.
Average price 25 industrial stocks (dollars).	194	88	78	Do.
Interest rate (4-6 months' paper, New York) (per cent).	2. 13	3. 50	3. 12	Do.
Retail food price index (Department of Labor). <sup>2</sup>	<sup>1</sup> 125	<sup>1</sup> 107	104	Do.
Wholesale price index (Department of Labor). <sup>2</sup>	<sup>1</sup> 107	<sup>1</sup> 96	94	Do.

<sup>1</sup> Revised.<sup>2</sup> 1910-1914 basis.

Data in the above table, excepting livestock slaughter and price indexes, are from the Survey of Current Business, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, United States Department of Commerce.

## PRICE INDEXES FOR MAY, 1932

Farm products figures from this bureau; commodity groups from Bureau of Labor Statistics (latter shown to nearest whole number). Shows year ago and latest available month.

## FARM PRODUCTS

[Prices received by producers, August, 1909–July, 1914, = 100]

Product	May, 1931	April, 1932	May, 1932	Month's trend
Cotton.....	71	46	42	Lower.
Corn.....	88	49	47	Do
Wheat.....	68	49	48	Do.
Hay.....	89	74	71	Do.
Potatoes.....	125	67	67	Unchanged.
Beef cattle.....	109	81	75	Lower.
Hogs.....	88	49	41	Do.
Eggs.....	62	47	48	Higher.
Butter.....	102	86	79	Lower.
Wool.....	81	62	51	Do.

## COMMODITY GROUPS

[Wholesale prices, 1910–1914 = 100] <sup>1</sup>

Group	May, 1931	April, 1932	May, 1932	Month's trend
Farm products.....	94	69	65	Lower.
Foods.....	114	95	92	Do.
Hides and leather products.....	136	116	112	Do.
Textile products.....	120	101	99	Do.
Fuel and lighting.....	124	133	134	Higher.
Metals and metal products.....	100	94	94	Unchanged.
Building materials.....	145	131	130	Lower.
Chemicals and drugs.....	99	92	91	Do.
House-furnishing goods.....	159	140	137	Do.
All commodities.....	107	96	94	Do.

<sup>1</sup> Indexes as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics divided by the following averages for 1910–1914: Farm products, 71.3; foods, 64.5; hides and leather products, 64.5; textile products, 56.3; fuel and lighting, 52.7; metals and metal products, 85.3; building materials, 55.2; chemicals and drugs, 81.2; house-furnishing goods, 54.6; and all commodities, 68.5.